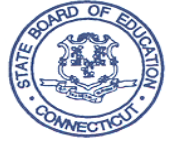




STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: Sponsors of School Child Nutrition Programs

FROM: Cheryl Resha, Education Manager
Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education

DATE: July 29, 2011

SUBJECT: Operational Memorandum #31-11
Child Nutrition Reauthorization 2010: Water Availability During
National School Lunch Program Meal Service

This memorandum provides attached questions and answers to update the Child Nutrition Reauthorization 2010 implementation memorandum OM #20-11, Water Availability During National School Lunch Program Meal Service. This memorandum may be downloaded at <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2626&q=322628>. The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (the Act), Public Law 111-296, establishes a requirement for making water available to children in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). The purpose of this memorandum is to provide guidance on the implementation of this provision.

Section 203 of the Act amends section 9(a) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. (1758(a))) by requiring that schools participating in the NSLP make potable water available to children at no charge in the place where lunch meals are served during the meal service. There is a variety of ways that schools can implement this requirement. For example, schools can offer water pitchers and cups on lunch tables, a water fountain or a faucet that allows students to fill their own bottles or cups with drinking water. Whatever solution is chosen, the water must be available without restriction in the location where meals are served. Schools should be working toward developing a reasonable method to implement this requirement.

While potable water is required to be made available to students, it is not considered part of the reimbursable meal and students are not required to take water. There is no separate funding available for this provision and reimbursement may not be claimed. However, reasonable costs associated with providing potable water would be an allowable cost to the non-profit food service account.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) understands that some food service areas and/or procedures may require significant changes to properly incorporate this provision. They also recognize the range of complexities that may be involved in a school's ability to implement this provision. Therefore, the USDA encourages schools to comply with this requirement as soon as possible, but not later than the beginning of School Year 2011-12.

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) plans to issue a proposed rule regarding water availability in conjunction with the proposed nutrition standards for all foods sold in schools.

Questions pertaining to this memorandum may be directed to:

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CR:tdd

Attachment